

Attorney's Docket: 2003DE404  
Application Number 10/769,963  
Filed 02/02/2004  
Response to Office Action dated 10/01/2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing the oxidation and bleaching action of a peroxygen compound comprising the step of mixing the peroxygen compound with a transition metal complex having nitrogen-containing ligands,, wherein the transition metal complex has the formula (1)

$$M(L)_nX_m \quad (1)$$

where

- M is a metal atom selected from the group consisting of Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Mo, and W,
- L is a ligand selected from the group consisting of pyridine, imidazole, picoline, imidazoline, pyrrole, pyrazole, triazole, hexamethylenimine, piperidine, lutidine, and mixtures thereof of nitrogen-containing heterocycles,
- X is chloride, bromide, nitrate, perchlorate, sulfate, ammonia, tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate or an anion of an organic acid having 1 to 22 carbon atoms,
- n is a number from 2 to 4 and m is a number from 0 to 4.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the peroxygen compound used is organic peracids, hydrogen peroxide, perborate, percarbonate, or mixtures thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixing step occurs in an aqueous solution.

Attorney's Docket: 2003DE404  
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5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixing step further comprises mixing a compound which releases eliminates peroxocarboxylic acid under perhydrolysis conditions.

6. (Currently Amended) A washing, bleaching or cleaning composition comprising a a peroxygen compound and a transition metal complex of the formula (1)



where

M is a metal atom selected from the group consisting of Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Mo, and W,

L is a ligand selected from the group consisting of pyridine, imidazole, picoline, imidazoline, pyrrole, pyrazole, triazole, hexamethylenimine, piperidine, lutidine, and mixtures thereof nitrogen-containing heterocycles,

X is chloride, bromide, nitrate, perchlorate, sulfate, ammonia, tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate or an anion of an organic acid having 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n is a number from 2 to 4 and m is a number from 0 to 4.

7. (Previously Presented) A washing, bleaching or cleaning composition as claimed in claim 6, comprising 0.0025 to 1% by weight of the transition metal complex of the formula (1).

8. (Currently Amended) A washing, bleaching or cleaning composition as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a compound which releases eliminates peroxycarboxylic acid under perhydrolysis conditions.

9. (Previously Presented) A washing, bleaching or cleaning composition as claimed in claim 6, comprising 0.01% by weight to 0.1% by weight of the transition metal complex of formula (1).

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10. (Previously Presented) A washing, bleaching or cleaning composition as claimed in claim 6, further comprising 2% by weight to 6% by weight of [[a]] the compound which eliminates releases peroxy carboxylic acid under perhydrolysis conditions.